

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SGEN

SUBJECT: UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. SUMMARY. ALL BOARD MEMBERS REQUESTED THAT THE SECT PROVIDE DOCUMENTS EARLY ENOUGH TO REVIEW. THE USSR AND THE UK WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE CHARTER OF UNICEF. THE USSR SUGGESTED REVISION OF THE DOCUMENT, WHILE THE UK SUGGESTED THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE BE REVISED. THE US DEL STRESSED CONTINUANCE OF THE GENERAL DEBATE DURING THE BOARD MEETING AS A VEHICLE FOR EVOLVING

UNICEF POLICY. HE ALSO ENCOURAGED MORE PARTICIPATION DURING THE SESSION BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. CONDUCT OF THE BOARD'S BUSINESS. FIVE DELS MADE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING BOARD MEETING PROCEDURES. ALL SPEAKERS COMPLAINED ABOUT THE LATENESS OF DOCUMENTS. THE UK SUGGESTED THAT EFFORTS BE MADE BY THE SECT TO PREPARE AND DISTRIBUTE FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS EARLIER AND TO HOLD THE BOARD MEETING LATER WHICH WOULD ALLOW DELS ON THE BUDGET COMITE TO READ AND PREPARE PROGRAM STATEMENTS ON THIS IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE UNICEF PROGRAM.

3. THE US STRESSED THE VALUE OF THE GENERAL DEBATE AS A VEHICLE FOR DEVELOPING UNICEF POLICY. MR. SCELSI CITED EXAMPLES OF PROGRAM CHANGES RESULTING FROM DELS' STATEMENTS MADE DURING THIS SEGMENT OF THE MEETING. MR. SCELSI ALSO

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URGED THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE MORE ACTIVELY
IIN THE GENERAL DEBATE. RECOGNIZING THAT A FINE LINE
EXISTS BETWEEN LOBBYING FOR THEIR COUNTRIES AND DISCUSSING
THEIR NEEDS, MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO EXPRESS SOME
OF THEIR CONCERNS, HE SAID THAT IT WAS STILL IMPORTANT THAT
THE DELS HEAR FIRST HAND FROM COUNTRIES RECEIVING UNICEF
AID. HE FELT THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT INPUT
FOR DEVELOPING UNICEF POLICY.

4. THE USSR SUGGESTED THAT THE PROGRAMS BE REVIEWED MORE FOR
SUBSTANCE THAN IS CURRENTLY THE CASE. HE ALSO PROPOSED THAT
THE SECT DEVELOP SOME KIND OF STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY WHICH
COULD BE USED TO EVALUATE PROJECTS. THE USSR REQUESTED
THAT ISSUES OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF UNICEF NOT BE DISCUSSED,
I. E., DRUG ABUSE. IF SUCH ISSUES HAVE MERIT FOR UNICEF,
THEN THE STAFF SHOULD MAKE AN INTENSIVE STUDY AND PLACE THE
ITEM UNDER ONE OF THE UNICEF HEADINGS, I. E., NUTRITION OR
EDUCATION. THE FINAL RECOMMENDATION PUT FORTH BY THE USSR DEL
WAS THE REVISION OF THE UNICEF CHARTER WHICH THEY FELT WOULD
ENDOW THE AGENCY WITH GREATER POWER.

5. THE UK COMPLAINED ABOUT THE LENGTHY ORAL PRESENTATIONS
OF THE REGIONAL REPS COUPLED WITH THEIR FUND RAISING SLIDES
AND FILMS. HE RECOMMENDED THAT SUCH PRESENTATIONS BE ENDED
SINCE IT IS ONLY A REPETITION OF WHAT THEY HAVE WRITTEN IN
THEIR REPORTS. GIVING UP HIS BATTLE TO END THE GENERAL DEBATE,
THE UK DEL SUGGESTED THAT IT BE LIMITED TO 2 DAYS IN FUTURE.
FOR THE PROGRAM COMITE HE SUGGESTED 3 DAYS. HE FELT THIS AMPLE
TIME SINCE BOARD MEMBERS ' COMMENTS WERE SCRAPPY AND DID NOT
GO INTO DEPTH.

6. THE UK DEL OUTLINED THE ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AS
1) RECEIVING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PROGRESS REPORTS OF
THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S ACTIVITIES AND GIVING GUIDANCE TO THE
SECT REGARDING THESE ACTIVITIES; 2) ASSISTING THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR IN DRAFTING THE PROGRAM OF WORK FOR THE FUTURE YEARS;
3) REVIEWING THE FINANCIAL SITUATION; AND 4) DISCUSSING NEW
POLICY QUESTIONS AND REVIEWING THOS POLICY DECISIONS EVERY
SEVERAL YEARS AND GIVING GUIDANCE TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
REGARDING UNICEF POLICY.

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THE DEL SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF THERE WAS A CHARTER FOR
UNICEF OR IF THERE WAS ONE, WHETHER IT SHOULD BE REVISED.
HE SAID HIS DEL HAD LOOKED AT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE
AGENCY. THEY FOUND THEM A BIT SCRAPPY AND QUESTIONED WHETHER
THEY COULD BE REVISED.

7. THE DEL OF INDIA RECOMMENDED THAT THE TIME FOR THE GENERAL
DEBATE BE SHORTENED AND THAT THE BUDGET COMITE MEET

CONCURRENTLY WITH THE PROGRAM COMITE.

8. MR. LABOUISSSE SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO RESPOND IN A GENERAL WAY TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED. HE SAID HE, ALSO, WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES PARTICIPATE MORE. HE SAID HE WOULD EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF A LATER DATE FOR THE BOARD SESSION. HE AND HIS STAFF WOULD SEE IF THE GENERAL DEBATE COULD BE SHORTENED OR IF OTHER AGENDA ITEMS COULD BE COMBINED UNDER THAT SEGMENT OF THE MEETING. HE SAID THAT THE SECT WOULD ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE THE STATISTICAL DATE REQUESTED BY THE USSR AT THE NEXT SESSION.

9. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FELT THAT A CHARTER REVISION HAD ITS MERITS AND ITS PITFALLS. AT THE NEXT BOARD SESSION HE SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE THE BOARD WITH A CONSOLIDATED SET OF POLICY DECISIONS AS THEY NOW EXIST AND REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR RULES OF PROCEDURE. FOLLOWING REVIEW OF THESE, THE BOARD COULD DETERMINE WHAT STEPS IT WOULD LIKE TO TAKE REGARDING REVISION.

BENNETT

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